



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



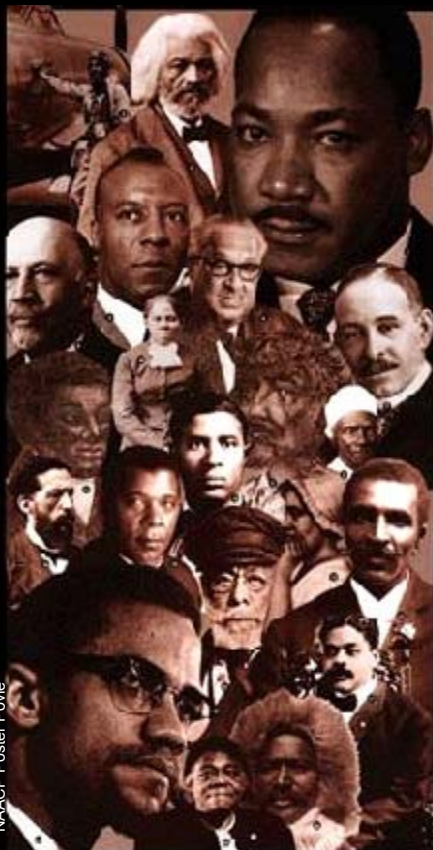
Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Originally established as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted African-American author and scholar, this event evolved into the establishment in 1976 of February as "Black History Month."

African-Americans have made remarkable progress since the 1960s. They are now more educated, earn higher salaries, work in more prestigious jobs, and participate more fully in politics. Still, racial disparities persist in many areas, including education, income, and politics. The black population numbered more than 33 million in 1999. In 1970, only about one-third of African-American adults had graduated from high school. In 1998, 86% of blacks ages 25 to 44 graduated from high school, close to the percentage for whites and Asians. Black households enjoyed a 31% boost in real median household income between 1967 and 1997, compared with a 18 percent increase for whites. However, African-Americans still tend to earn less than whites - even when they have similar educational levels. In 1998, there were 8.4 million African-American families, nearly half of whom were married-couple families. (U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov)

African-Americans History Milestones

- 1619: A Dutch frigate brings 20 African indentured servants to Jamestown, Virginia, the first Africans known to set foot in England's North American colonies.
- 1676: Black slaves take part in Bacon's Rebellion.
- 1807: Britain and the United States abolish the slave trade.
- 1839: African slaves held captive aboard the slave ship L'Amistad launch a rebellion.
- 1863: President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1868: African-Americans gain expanded civil rights when the Fourteenth Amendment was passed.
- 1870: Hiram R. Revels (R-Mississippi), elected as the first African-American to the U.S. Senate.
- 1881: Booker T. Washington establishes Tuskegee University, the first U.S. institution of higher learning to have a black faculty.
- 1909: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.
- 1932: Duke Ellington records the jazz classic "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing."
- 1936: Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin.
- 1942: The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) founded to challenge racial segregation through organized, nonviolent protest.
- 1951: The National Basketball Association opens its ranks to African-Americans.
- 1954: The Supreme Court rules in Brown v. Board of Education that the "separate but equal" doctrine allowing racial segregation has "no place in the field of public education."
- 1955: Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white person, spurring the Montgomery bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 1959: Miles Davis and his band record Kind of Blue.
- 1963: More than 250,000 people from all over the U.S. participate in the March on Washington.
- 1964: President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, banning discrimination in voting, education, employment, and public accommodation.
- 1965: Malcolm X is assassinated.
- 1966: The Black Panther Party is founded.
- 1968: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated.
- 1969: The Nixon administration develops the first affirmative action program.
- 1977: Roots, Alex Haley's story of generations of his African and African-American family, becomes the most popular television program in history.
- 1982: Michael Jackson releases Thriller, which will become the best-selling pop album of all time.
- 1983: Harold Washington is sworn in as the first African-American mayor of Chicago.
- 1987: Toni Morrison publishes her novel Beloved, wins a Pulitzer Prize in 1988.
- 1989: General Colin Powell becomes the first African-American to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- 1992: Illinois Congresswoman Carol Moseley-Braun becomes the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate.
- 1995: Approximately 900,000 African-American men come to the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.
- 2001: Condoleezza Rice becomes the first woman and second African-American to hold the office of U.S. National Security Adviser.



NAACP Poster Photo

Black History Month Related Websites

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [www.naACP.org]
- The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History [www.asalH.com]
- Library of Congress African-American Odyssey [lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aointro.html]
- U.S. Dept. of State African-American History Month [usinfo.state.gov/usa/blackhis/history/homepage.htm]

■ A Dream Remembered: Dr. Martin Luther King

On a cold day in December 1955, Rosa Parks waited for a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, to take her home after work. The laws of Alabama decreed that whites had priority for the seats in the front of the bus. When a white man got on the bus, the driver asked Mrs. Parks to move to the back. Fed up with the "Southern way of life," she replied, "I don't think I should have to move." The driver called a policeman to arrest her, launching the civil rights movement.

Blacks, under the leadership of a local minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of the Montgomery bus company. Meanwhile, legal action ended the bus segregation policy. In 1956 the Supreme Court affirmed that the bus segregation policy violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which forbids the states from denying equal rights to any citizen. The boycott thrust Martin Luther King, Jr., into national prominence.

In the following years the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, whose president was King, helped African-Americans organize so-called "sit-ins," during which they refused to leave facilities such as bars which did not serve them. As a result of these protests, lunch counters across the South began to serve blacks, and other public facilities were desegregated.

On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 Americans from many religious and ethnic backgrounds converged on Washington, staging the largest demonstration in the history of the nation's capital known as the March on Washington. King electrified the demonstrators with an eloquent articulation of the American dream. Entitled "I Have a Dream," the speech outlined his hopes for a time when his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

In 1964 King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. On April 4, 1968, he was assassinated by a sniper as he stood on a balcony in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had gone to support a strike by sanitation workers.

MORE INFO

Rosa Parks

→ www.time.com/time/time100/heroes/profile/parks01.html

Martin Luther King, Jr.

→ www.time.com/time/time100/leaders/profile/king.html

Fourteenth Amendment

→ memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jul28.html

Greensboro Sit-Ins

→ www.sitins.com/

March on Washington

→ usinfo.state.gov/usa/civilrights/anniversary/

I Have a Dream speech

→ www.hpol.org/transcript.php?id=72

Nobel Prize speech

→ www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/1964/

Assassination of Martin Luther King

→ www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/mlk/part1.htm#toc

"I have a dream...

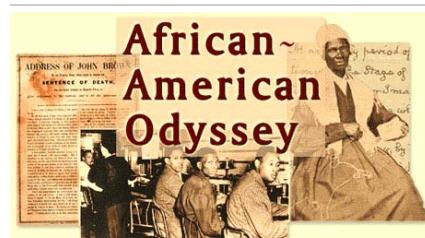
I have a dream that one day little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today".

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Children hold flags at the Kingdom Day Parade, January 20, 2003, in Los Angeles to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)



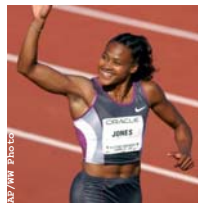
Would you like to learn more about the history of African-Americans?

Have a look at a special presentation by the American Library of Congress, the biggest library in the world.

African-American Odyssey: lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aointro.html

■ Meet Black Celebrities

5 Medals



Marion Jones was the first woman to win five medals in athletics in the same Olympics. From the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games she brought home gold medals for the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the 4 x 400-meter relay, and bronze medals for the 4 x 100-meter relay and the long jump.

4 Stars ★★★★★



The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was a professional soldier for 35 years, during which time he held myriad command and staff positions and rose to the rank of 4-star General. He is the recipient of numerous U.S. and foreign military awards, among them two Presidential Medals of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

3 Oscars



Denzel Washington is a Hollywood actor and an Academy Award (Oscar) winner. In 2002 Washington received an Oscar for his role in *Training Day*. Mr. Washington is the third black actor to receive an Oscar (the first was Sidney Poitier; the second was Halle Berry—the first black actress ever to receive an Oscar.) For a synopsis of the movie starring Washington, please look below.

■ Movies: Remember the Titans

"Remember the Titans has the outer form of a brave statement about the races in America, but the soul of a sports movie in which everything is settled by the obligatory last play in the last seconds of the championship game". Excerpt from a movie review by a noted American critic, Roger Ebert

Remember the Titans is based on a true story. In the 1970s high school football was very important for the citizens of Alexandria, Virginia. The integration of schools attended only by white or only by African-American students was controversial.

The football team became mixed-race and a new young black coach, played in the movie by Denzel Washington, was hired. He fought against racial hatred and taught his integrated team to accept one another. The movie has many great sport action scenes. With a budget of \$30 million, it grossed over \$115 million in the USA alone after its release in 2000.

Now T.C. Williams High School is one of the most diverse schools in the United States: it has students whose families come from more than 80 countries and speak more than 50 languages.

Available in Polish video rental stores as *Tytani*.

The movie:

Directed by: Boaz Yakin

Written by: Gregory Allen Howard

Starring: Denzel Washington, Will Patton, Ryan Hurst, Donald Faison

Read about the differences between the movie and what really happened:

<http://www.71originaltitans.com/faqs.html>

T.C. Williams High School Website:

<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/>

Remember the Titans official website:

<http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/liveaction/rememberthetitans/>



Win a Book!

To take part in a drawing for one of three English-language books check out our website:

www.usinfo.pl/zoom/ and find the answer to the following question:

How many African - Americans live in the United States?

Send the correct answer to:
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

State your name, address, and age.

Good Luck!

ZOOM
in on america

About ZOOM

Zoom is online at
www.usinfo.pl/zoom/

Subscription issues
www.usinfo.pl/zoom/subscribe.htm

Contact us at
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

American Information Resource Centers

Warsaw
Ambasada USA
ul. Piękna 14, 00-540 Warszawa
airc_warsaw@pd.state.gov

Kraków
Konsulat Generalny USA
ul. Stolarska 9, 31-043 Kraków
KrakowAIRC@state.gov

Match Words & Definitions

All words have been used in this issue of ZOOM.

myriad
graduate
synopsis
coach
racial
launch

of, relating to, or characteristic of race or races
a short description
a great number
someone who trains sportsmen
to give something a start
someone who has received a diploma

Quiz Yourself on the Rap Vocabulary

1. What "Benjamins" does Puff Daddy have in mind when he sings *It's All About the Benjamins*?

- a. money
- b. a BMW
- c. politicians

3. Who does "homey" refer to when Eminem sings "[you] only have one homey"?

- a. a friend
- b. a dollar
- c. a home

2. When Tupac says "Gimme that bomb beat from Dre" he is saying the beat is:

- a. too loud
- b. very good
- c. dangerous

4. In Eminem's words: "stay in one spot, another jam or not," "jam" means:

- a. a problem
- b. a traffic congestion
- c. a concert

Find Correct Answers at: www.usinfo.pl/zoom

American English Clinic

According to *The Columbia Guide to Standard American English* (1993), the term "African-American" or "African American" is now the most widely accepted group name, although "people of color" or "persons of color" are also in regular standard use today.

From the 1960s until the late 1980s, "Black" was the preferred standard term, replacing the earlier "Negro" and "Colored" as acceptable both to members of the group and others. The *Guide* warns that as long as racial matters continue to be sensitive, terminology may change.

Other changes in ethnic group terminology (after Facts on File News Services):

"Old" term	"New" term
Oriental	Asian
Indian	Native American
Black	African-American

Cool Websites of the Month

- High School Hub [highschoolhub.org/hub/hub.cfm]
- SHiNE Features music and movie news, message boards, contests, advice column, poetry and art galleries, and online journals [www.shine.com]
- WOOGLETURTLE Contains games, homework help, poetry, art, advice, and horoscopes for teens [www.woogleturtle.com]
- GLOBAL TEEN Teens discuss a variety of current world issues including globalization, politics, capital punishment, and the war [Globalteen.net]